

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 417 without my signature.

This bill would codify current law and practice to treat flavored malt beverages as a malt beverage product consistent with federal standards of identity, which 49 of the 50 states follow.

I am taking this action to allow a full discussion of the issues surrounding flavored malt beverages, not to suggest that the State's regulatory administration of flavored malt beverages is flawed. It was amended late in the session and only had one full hearing with short notice. I encourage all interested parties, particularly health professionals, law enforcement and the producers of flavored malt beverages, to use this opportunity for public debate and serious consideration of the policy issues surrounding this beverage.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger